for the basic services are now withdrawing by not paying the Licence fees within the stipulated time;

(b) if so, the names of such bidders and amount of security deposit, the last date for paying the Licence fees; and

(c) whether Bank guarantee provided by them is likely to be encashed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Bank Guarantees provided by the bidders are liable to be encashed only if the bidders fail to sign the licence agreement and pay the licence fee and other dues by the stipulated date set by the Government.

[Translation]

Tourist Places

932. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the tourist places in the country where maximum number of foreign tourists visited;

(b) whether all the modern facilities are available on the said tourist places;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of complaints lodged by these visitors and nature thereof;

(e) the action taken by the authorities on these complaints; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage inflow of more foreign tourists into the country?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) According to a survey of foreign tourist conducted during 1998-89, the top ten places visited by the foreign tourists in the country are :

(i) Bombay
(ii) Delhi
(iii) Madras
(iv) Agra
(v) Jaipur
(vi) Goa
(vii) Calcutta
(viii) Bangalore
(ix) Trivandrum-Kovalam
(x) Udaipur

(b) and (c). The development of modern infrastructural facilities is an ongoing process and is being achieved. Some financial assistance is provided to State Governments and private investment is also encouraged in this regard. However, the resources available for the development of such facilities are limited.

(d) and (e). During last year, 117 complaints were received by the Department of Tourism. These complaints, mostly from overseas tourists, include inadequate road and air services, cheating by shop-keepers and inconveniences suffered by tourists. These complaints have been acknowledged and enquiries are made either directly or through the concerned Departments. A small cell has also been set up in the Department of Tourism to deal with such complaints.

(f) Steps taken by the Government to encourage inflow of foreign tourists include improvement of infrastructural facilities, development of tourist attractions and strengthening of Publicity and Promotional efforts.

[English]

Modernisation of Tourist Centres

933. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise/ beautify the pilgrimage, tourist places, Rajgriha and Nalanda;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c). The Government has entered into a soft loan agreement with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) Japan in December, 1988 for the development of infrastructural facilities along the identified Buddhist travel circuits in U.P. and Bihar. The financial assistance is to the tune of 7.76 billion Japanese Yen.

The places identified in Bihar are : Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali. The major component of the project are strengthening of National and State highways, improvement of local roads, landscaping, augmentation of water and electricity supply, setting up of wayside amenities.

All the works taken up under this project are in progress.

Special Schemes for Attracting Tourists

934. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring special schemes to attract tourists for areas like

Darjeeling, Shillong, Kohima and other parts of North East; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. For the development of tourist facilities which will benefit both domestic and foreign tourists, Government of India, Department of Tourism have agreed in principle provide central financial assistance during 1996-97 for the following projects/ schemes in the North Eastern States :

Assam

1. Upgradation cum expension of tourist facilities at Kaziranga.
2. Upgradation of sound and light show at Talatal Ghar at Sibsagar.
3. Purchase of 10 elephants for Kaziranga Manas, Orang and Tobitora.

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Tourist Complex at Passighat

Manipur

1 Construction of Health Resort at Imphal

Meghalaya

1 Land scaping of Umiam Lake Resort
2 Expansion of Pine Wood Hotel
3 Expansion of Orchid Lake Resort, Umiam
4 Expansion of Orchid Lodge, Tura
5 Master Plan for Shillong and Chirapunji (including feasibility for a Cable Car on Umiam Lake)

Mizoram

1 Tourist home at Lunglei
2 Tourist cottages at Hnahthiae

Nagaland

1 Development of water falls at Sedima (Dimapur)
2 Development of water falls at Chumukedima (Dimapur).

Tripura

1 View point at Betalongchipp under Phuldangshi division highest peak in Tripura.
2. Cafetaria with public conveniences with in Neermahal Complex.

Darjeeling

1 Repair, renovation and up of facilities at Tiger Hill Pavilion, Darjeeling and use it as the base for trekking in the adjoining areas.
2. Provision of eco-friendly and renewable energy sources such as wind generated power and solar lanterns at different tourist facilities in far flung places etc.
3. Expansion of Kalimpong Tourist Lodge/Morgan House at Kalimpong Darjeeling Distt.

Star T.V. Network

935. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI
SHRI SURESH KALMADI

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have granted permission to STAR TV network organisation to shift their uplinking project to Tumkur in Karnataka from Hongkong;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued to India due to that?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Violation of Safety Norms

936. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI
DR. RAM KRISHNA KUSMARIA

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints that some private airlines are allegedly violating the air safety norms;

(b) if so, the details of such complaints received during 1996 so far, and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) During 1996 (till date) there have been only two violations of air safety norms by private airlines involving MESCO Airlines and East West Airlines. A pilot of MESCO Airlines flew an Ecureuil helicopter on 6.1.1996 without a valid flight release, carried out underslung operation for which the helicopter was not equipped and undertook night flight without ATC service. An East West Airlines B-737 aircraft while on a flight from Delhi to Bangalore on 2.1.1996 landed with the left main wheel on the ground outside the runway.

(c) Licences of the pilot/co-pilot involved have been suspended. Various measures such as monitoring of flight recorders, issuance of Civil Aviation Requirements, safety audit of operators, conducting safety seminars/